

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
INVESTIGATIONS



INVESTIGATIVE CASE SUMMARIES



February 2020

In February 2020, the Department suspended and proposed the debarment of a former contractor employee for theft. The former contractor was implementing two Department cooperative agreements to help local governments carry out legislative functions more effectively and prepare for upcoming local and national elections. OIG and company investigators determined the employee stole approximately \$172,000 from a company bank account. The individual had signatory authority over the account and withdrew the funds without authorization and later tried to conceal the withdrawal by creating fictitious bank statements.

In February 2020, a [former Department contracting officer \(CO\) was sentenced](#) to 87 months of imprisonment followed by 3 years supervised release, a \$25,000 fine, and a \$1,300 special assessment. In October 2019, [a jury convicted the CO](#) on 13 counts of conspiracy, bribery, honest services wire fraud, and making false statements. Before the [CO's indictment in April 2019](#), OIG and FBI special agents determined that from November 2012 to early 2017, the CO and the owner of a Turkish construction firm allegedly engaged in a bribery and procurement fraud scheme in which the CO received at least \$239,300 in cash payments from the business owner. In return, the CO allegedly supervised multimillion-dollar construction contracts awarded to the owner's business partners. The CO allegedly concealed the unlawful relationship by making false statements on financial disclosure forms and during his background reinvestigation. The CO's security clearance was suspended.